POLAND: Shortages Hurting Industry

Industry increasingly is plagued by shortages of Western materials and spare parts, and the party reportedly is becoming concerned over possible worker reaction to perceived fear of reduced salaries and layoffs at affected plants. A national newspaper reported on Saturday that 500 key plants will have to be virtually shut down and exports cut by one-half, unless additional raw materials promised by Warsaw's CEMA allies arrive soon. Forty percent of Poland's manufacturing capacity reportedly already is idle because of raw material and spare parts shortages. [redacted]

Comment: Shortages of industrial inputs have been a growing economic problem for the regime. The publication of the critical need for accelerated CEMA deliveries is probably intended to put pressure on Warsaw's allies to be more forthcoming. Premier Jaruzelski is expected to seek additional help during his visit to Prague today but is unlikely to get much. [redacted]

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